

Scythian Friendship :

OR, THE

SECRET HISTORY

OF THE

Theban Conspiracy.

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TO

Her Grace, The

Dutcheſs of LINSTER.

MADAM

WITH the moſt profound
reſpect, I preſent the
following pages to your
protection; as any thing descrip-
tive of the finer ſenſations of the
human breaſt, cannot be deſſonant
with your Grace's mind, the pic-
ture which they contain of Virtues
that ariſe from Love, Honor,
Friendſhip, and exalted ſentiments
of Liberty, will, I hope, render
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iv. DEDICATION.

*them acceptable, and excuse in me
the presumption of this address.
If they shall be so fortunate as
to contribute to your Grace's en-
tertainment at a leisure hour, I
shall have attained the highest
point of my ambition, who deem
no honor before that of professing
myself,*

Your Grace's,

Most respectful and

Most obedient Servant,

the EDITOR.

Scythian Friendship.



THE commonwealths of Greece, before the Peloponesian war, a period fatal to their virtue, sent forth from every rank, men formed to excite and conduct the emulation of after ages. Such was the fruit of their laws planed by the profoundest wisdom. Lycurgus and Solon their legislators were convinced that, while with a handful of citizens, the enormous weight of Asiatic armies must be sustained, their country would preserve her freedom

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dom only so long as she could produce a succession of heroes to defend her. Accordingly the end of all their cares was to investigate, establish and complete the cause, which alone can ensure the perpetuity of such a race; *to wit.* Education. These lawgivers, taught by their exact knowledge of the human heart, and sagacious as they were virtuous, forgot no precept that could in any wise contribute to exalt the Soul and bring to full maturity the seeds of every generous passion. Pursuant of this design, they ordained that popular esteem, that honors and pleasures should be with them the exchange of virtue, in like manner as among nations of depraved morals they wait on power and wealth. Knowing, that from the particular affections of citizens, there ever arises some more general passion on which the destiny of the
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state depends, they adjudged the highest seat of honor to the Love of their Country, and the next to Friendship. And thus, having by this wise subordination guarded against the conspiracies of the vicious, they beheld the fairest prospect of nought but combinations cemented by virtuous sentiment. So that, whilst there lay no road to favor but through atchievements great and honorable, it was impossible that two friends should not mutually exhort each other to serve their country, and should not esteem as proofs of personal friendship, all endeavors to promote the public wale. Thus was patriotism founded not only on the reflection of man as civilized, who weighs his interest, not only on the sentiment of man as social, who considers his several relations to others, but even on the instinct of man in the state of nature, by which

he is invincibly attached to that which actually is or appears to be beneficial to him. By such happy union of the principles of nature, wisely adapted to those of legislation, which were generally considered rather as consequences thereof, virtue became habitual; what we extol for heroism bore only the name of duty. And the actions of Harmodius and Aristogiton, of Damon and Pythias, of Dinias and Agathocles, which our degeneracy pronounces to be monstrous fables, scarcely rose above the class of ordinary occurrences; and the delicate sensibility of that youthful Theban who, when overthrown by his enemy at the battle of Mantinea, besought him to pierce his bosom, lest some wound which probably might be deemed an equivocal evidence of his valor, should cause his friend to blush for him, appeared to be no more than
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the natural effect of the regards due to Friendship (a).

By these bless'd institutions did Greece, glorious and happy, flourish through three revolving ages. But when Lysander, whose fortitude only served to make him criminal, acceded to a share in the government of his country ; when the soul of this Spartan debased by the alliances which with shameless confidence he formed with the Satraps of the lesser Asia, listened to the ideas of despotic power, and designed the slavery of his compatriots, then popular vir-

(a) vide Lucian.—And having perused the dialogue under the signature Toxaris, then cast a glance over the present race of men and see if there be any found capable of performing actions equal in glory with those that, among the ancient Greeks and Scythians, took their rise from Friendship.

tues began to decline. The Gold, which, in contempt of the prohibition of Lycurgus, he dared to introduce at Lacedemon, forthwith abolished every exalted sentiment. The consequences of the animosities sown by Lysander throughout the several states of Greece are amply known : a little more and she had become a province to the Persian, and the country of Miltiades and Aristides had fallen a prey to the base inglorious hands of a Satrap. Greece by his death again emerged from the tide of calamity in which she lay involved, but Sparta claimed the sovereign dominion over her ; and to restore to her republics their antient equality, their primitive freedom, they must be reduced to their primitive manners, and the springs of action must be wound up to their accustomed tone. This was the work of Friendship. Thebes, whilst it was indebted

indebted to this virtue for the creation of the sacred Phalanx. rendered to the passions of esteem and glory their former rights, and the final moments of Greece rivaled the lustre of her most brilliant days.

A particular adventure, in which the power of Friendship stood manifest in all its beauty, inspired Pelopidas with the design of forming that renowned Phalanx which was entirely composed of friends ; almost every historian has omitted to relate the circumstances thereof, but the fragment of a manuscript, penned by some unknown writer, has preserved the narration ; which followeth, as I have translated it from thence.

CEPHI-

CEPHISODORUS, one of the most respectable citizens of Thebes, and who had with honor filled the first employments among his people, had an only son, his name Philotimus, who even from his infant years gave full assurance that he would not shame the virtue of his fore-fathers. Cephisodorus nurtured with care these hopeful dispositions, and chiefly was attentive to all that could contribute to form his Soul for Friendship. He recounted to him the stories of these great heroes who for achievements prompted by this virtue were added to the number of the gods, and when he discerned the youthful breast of Philotimus glowing with the divine enthusiasm which such examples are delineated to inspire, he forthwith subjoined precepts replete with wisdom. My dearest

dearest son, said he, a Friend is the most precious gift of heaven ; our soul is made for love : Nature, it is true, points out their course to our affections, but those for whom we ought to feel them, are frequently endued with characters and manners which forbid our yielding full obedience to her dictates ; a Friend on the contrary is a parent of our own election : and this choice, which should be guided by convenience, when once it is established, becomes the surety of our happiness. Our existence is in a measure doubled ; we triumph at the rejoicings of our friend, and nothing then can be compared with our delight ; we also share his pains indeed, but it is a charming sorrow endeared by the pleasure we experience in comforting his griefs, and sight of that melting tenderness which he feels on perceiving that we are equally interested

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ed in them. The period, my beloved Philotimus, is drawing nigh when thou wilt be capable and privileged to make thy choice. Pay no respect to Rank or Wealth, pursue thy search of Virtue only, and be directed by the emotions of thy heart. Thou art preparing to set out for Athens : the Portico and the Lyceum, the groves of the Academy and gardens of the Pecilum will there present thee with a multitude of youth, 'mong whom thou mayest discover some of tempers consonant with thine, and to whom thou mayest attach thyself. I particularly name to thee, my son, these famous retreats, because those that frequent them professedly aspire to wisdom, and because the most advantageous prejudice in favor of a man is his ardor to acquire it. If herein I may be allowed to conceive a wish, I would beseech the gods to sow in the breast

breast of the young Dioxippus and in thine, the seeds of that divine sympathy, whereby hearts are united together. His father, the brave Ismenias was my compeer in arms, and having served his country with glory was at length so happy as to fall in her defence. From the dawnings of virtue that begin to appear in Dioxippus, we are full of hope that Thebes will see revived in the person of the son the shining services of the father; and thou, beloved Philotimus, thou wilt become, for such is my unceasing prayer, after my death, the object of thy fellow citizens love. The day will come, and is perhaps not far remote, when Bœotia shall become completely independant; instead of being, as now it truly is, rather subjected than allied to Sparta. The power which that haughty state hath derived from Lyfander's shameful success will
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only contribute to accelerate its ruin. When the institutions which have exalted a republic to happiness begin to totter, its fall is nigh at hand. The ordonances of the sage Lycurgus now live almost only in the rememb'rance of the Lacedemonians: the detestable Lyfander having, to confirm his tyranny, bent all his projects to annihilate them. Since his decease, Greece seemed to awake from a deep sleep; and Sparta preserveth her dominion no otherwise than from the long veneration paid to her ancient virtues. By the experience of thirty Years, consumed in camps or in assemblies of the people, I see that some revolutions are ripening in secret. If my surmise be just, and that Thebes, my beloved son, shall take part therein, surcease from every other pursuit; fly forthwith to arms, and live or die for thy country's peace, or to assert

assert the liberty of Greece. Let no motives how prevalent soever engage thee with any party which may endeavor to overthrow the one or design to destroy the other. Even whilst I am now addressing thee, my dear Philotimus, I am convinced that the good Theognis, the Grandfather of Dioxippus is conversing with him on this very subject. He as well as I would wish to see youth both conjoined in friendship, to the end that if in future time you shall be chosen to hold the reigns of government, your country may not groan through your dissentions, but may be rendered mighty through your friendship. Yet may the Gods forbid, my Son, that whilst we are treating of the most holy engagement that thou can'st possibly contract, I should presume to dispoil thee of thy liberty. I desire no other privilege than that of some-

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times conducting thee to visit the young Dioxippus ; what though his taste exhibits a mode of living, as sumptuous as that of Ismenias was simple and severe, he is of illustrious birth : you are of equal age, you, very probably, will hear the doctrines of the same preceptors, and will perform your exercises in the same gymnasium. Here behold are ample opportunities for your becoming acquainted with each other ; the rest is in the hands of the Gods.

Philotimus, deeply affected with the tender lessons of his father, assured him that he would employ his utmost abilities to accomplish his desires ; but withal, he complained with that ingenuous freedom natural to a generous soul, that the arrogant temper of Dioxippus and his connection with Timophanes, son of the proud Archias, disgusted him.

him. It may be so, my Son, replied Ciphisodorus; but he, perhaps, is only dazled with the splendor of that false greatness which Archias affects, or that weakness may be owing to the misfortune of Dioxippus in the early loss of his father, and his so soon becoming master of himself. But whatever be the cause, let us go offer sacrifice to the *friendly Jove* (b), for he alone can direct thee how to chuse a friend.

Some few days after, Philotimus and Dioxippus proceeded for Athens. The first attended only by a faithful slave, the second, followed by an almost Asiatic train. Philotimus resided in the house of the sage Caridemus, his father's antient friend;

(b) Jupiter Philios, the God of Friendship, among the Greeks.

but Dioxippus to lodge his numerous household bought a spacious palace. 'Spight of the obstacles that intervened, Philotimus endeavored to attach himself to Dioxippus; but his endeavors were abortive. Whilst the former in every instance displayed a captivating and generous demeanor, the latter met it with superciliousness and vanity; Philotimus valued himself only on the talents which he proposed to acquire, and Dioxippus rested all his confidence on his personal perfections; Philotimus never spoke of himself and scarcely ever mentioned the real services which Cephisodorus had performed for his country; Dioxippus in the midst of a croud of flatterers dwelt with exulting pride on the great actions of his father, and because Ismenias was slain in his country's cause, he held himself intitled to claim not only the indications

indications of favor which his fellow Citizens would with voluntary cheerfulness have confer'd upon him, but even such reverence and homage as a man born to freedom neither can nor ought ever to expect from a free-man. In short, Philotimus was modest, affable and engaging, not wedded to his own opinions, ever ready to give ear to all advice but not to fix his resolution till he had maturely weighed it both by the light of reflexion and experience: he was valiant without temerity; steady without obstinacy; full of veneration for the laws of his state and inspired with the sublimest love of his country. Dioxippus, on the contrary, was vain, choleric and presumptuous, hurried on by a savage valor, and ruled by an inexorable stubbornness; discerning in great actions civil or military the

renown alone which attended them and not the good or evil which might prove the result thereof. Quite unconcern'd in other respects about the state of the affairs of Greece, he could have been most readily induced to forego his quality of citizen of any country, to become the vassal of a master, provided that master would appoint him the instrument of his oppressive tyranny.

Two characters so dissonant could never feel a mutual sympathy. Therefore no sooner did these Thebans become alternately acquainted, than they began insensibly to be estranged to each other, and visited no more than what decency between fellow citizens required. Besides the different preceptors whom they chose contributed still more to alienate them; Dioxippus became

became the disciple of the Sophist Athenagoras, and Philotimus imbibed the doctrines of the Stoic Diodorus who with transcendent reputation filled the chair of his master Zeno. In this school of wisdom it was that Philotimus learned to scorn death, or torment itself more terrible than death, and to prize nothing before Liberty and Virtue. His host, Caridemus, was delighted with the progress of the Son of his friend, and the reports thereof which he transmitted to Cephisodorus, elevated that fond parent's soul with the most heart-felt joy.

Philotimus had sojourned now almost a year at Athens, when a Scythian named Sifinnes arrived there to be instructed in the wisdom of the Greeks; for ever since the kind reception which Anacarsis had

had experienced from Solon (c); there subsisted a hospitable intercourse between the Athenians and the Scythians, numbers of whom might frequently be seen in Greece. To the free and simple virtue which distinguished his nation, Sisinnes joined the most gentle manners and a soul the most exalted and sensible that ever was. Philotimus and Sisinnes met for the first time at the house of Diodorus, and their mutual propensity bred a prevention in each other's favor. Confidence soon followed this reciprocal inclination; the oftener they beheld each other, the more was their incli-

(c) The friendship of Solon and Anacarsis is well recorded. It has been even suspected that the hint and spirit of some of Solon's wisest laws have been partly borrowed from the conversation of that learned Scythian. See Plutarch, Lucian, &c.

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nation established, and each of them discovered that that was the auspicious hour of Friendship. Philotimus who was not ignorant how highly that virtue was revered by the Scythians who had raised a temple sacred to Pylades and Orestes, regarded this union with Sisinnes as the most signal favor of the Gods. They agreed not to separate from each other so long as they abode at Athens, and Philotimus's persuasions of Caridemus to receive him in his house were the sooner prevalent, as that wise Athenian had travelled among the Scythians and revered their virtue.

Each day enhanced the esteem which Philotimus and Sisinnes had conceived for each other. Caridemus, who had an intimate knowledge of the human heart, perceived that Philotimus had made the happiest

pieft choice, and congratulated Si-
 finnes for having sealed the league
 of friendship with the fon of the
 moft respectable of the Greeks. I
 am fully confcious, replied the vir-
 tuous Scythian, how precious that
 friendship, which Philotimus hath
 plighted me; but it is not becaufe
 he is the fon of Cephifodorus that I
 am attached to him. I know that
 his illuftrious father deferveth his
 country's warmeft affection, but I
 ftudied only the qualities of Philo-
 timus's mind in order to court his
 friendship while I profered a return
 of mine. Souls know no anceftors,
 for we too often find the fon of a
 hero, a of demigod, to be no better
 than a defpicable man. Alas! cried
 Caridemus interrupting him, thy
 obfervation is too juft, and Dioxip-
 pus testifies its truth: how vaft the
 difference 'twixt him and Ifmenias
 his father! But, thou, Sifinnes,
 can'ft

can't only in thy travels find matter for these gloomy observations, for every Scythian is by nature good and virtuous. No, sage Greek, replied Sifinnes ; We are not favored by nature beyond other people. If vice is rarely found in Scythia, it is because education killeth it in the natives of our clime, and example chafeth it from the hearts of strangers that sojourn amongst us. Besides, we are visited by none but Greeks, and some of them have even there been famous for their virtue. Aristander, that worthy friend of my father, was of Greece ; Dandamis and Scythia still mourn for him. What, exclaim'd Caridemus, art thou the son of Dandamis? of that Dandamis?—O Philotimus, what a hero! what a friend ! how inestimable the sacrifice ! Fame, dear Sifinnes, hath even unto us resounded the history of thy father,——but I will not deprive

prive Philotimus of the pleasure to hear thee recount the tale thyself. My father, rejoined Sifinnes, hath only performed the duty of a Scythian. Friendship is with us the chief of virtues. Aristander his friend accompanied him into Scythia. The Sarmatians made an incursion into the country. Aristander became their captive. My father is informed of the disastrous event and hastens to their camp to procure his liberty. What ransom dost thou proffer? said the captain of this band of robbers. Myself, if thou art willing to receive me, replied Dandamis, for I have been deprived of all that I possessed. Thy whole person is too much, returned the barbarian, I shall content me with a part, (d). He then or-

(d) See Lucian in Toxaris.

dered his eyes to be put out and dismissed him together with Aristander. More exultant in having retrieved his friend than afflicted at the loss which he had sustained, my father returned to the camp of the Scythians, who welcomed him with shouts of applause ; and Aristander, disdainng to enjoy the light which his friend had so freely resigned for him, deprived himself also of sight. Struck with this generous devotion, my country, adopted him for her own and besought them to pass the remainder of their days together in the temple of Friendship. There they resided happy in each other's society until the death of Aristander. Fain would my father follow him to the tomb, but Aristander with his expiring breath implored him to have compassion on my youth, and live, that he might be enabled to instruct me how to deserve a friend. It hath

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pleased

pleased my father that I should travel into Greece, hoping that I should there make a choice that may prove worthy of him ; his prayers and mine are heard, for I have found Philotimus.

Sifinnes and the youthful Theban interchanged vows of eternal friendship, and the constancy of their character confirmed the vow. Three years had thus accomplished their period e'er any cloud obscured the sunshine of their happiness; they together journeyed through the principal cities of Greece, and the advantages which they derived from their observations fully accomplished them to render useful service to their respective countries on some future day. Philotimus purposed to finish the peregrinations of his friend with Thebes, where he hoped to detain him for some time, when Sifinnes was constrained to return precipitately into Scythia, on
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an account which he had received of his father's death. Philotimus sympathised in the sorrow of his friend; but finding it impossible to attend him, he made him promise to return into Greece so soon as his affairs permitted. Sisinnes was the less scrupulous in granting such a promise, as, after he had rendered the last duties to Dandamis, by a solemn sacrifice to Mithrah, to the Wind and to his Sword, attested by the Scythians in their oaths (e) which was the chief object of his journey, nothing remained to de-

(e) The Scythians worshiped the universal principle under the name of Mithrath, and held the Air and their Swords in sacred reverence, as the symbols of Life and Death. They despised other nations for their polytheism, and derided the deities of Homer, who are perpetually warring with each other.
—See Lucian.

tain him in his native country, whether he had no apprehension of being recalled to take the field, the terror which foreran the Scythian arms being sufficient to secure them in a lasting peace.

Philotimus escorted his friend as far as Byzantium, and appointed with him that they should meet the following year at Athens. And now, to divert the sorrow excited by this separation he slowly returned by the way of Beotia, when having arrived at Cheronea, he was informed that without any declaration of war, and solely by the instigation of Archias, Leontidas and Hypatus, three of the principal, but most dissolute citizens of Thebes, Phæbidas general of the Lacedæmonians had surprized the Cadmea, placed a Spartan garrison in that fortress, and had entrusted the government

vernment of the town to the three traitors who had given it unto his hand : And moreover, that the first act of authority performed by Archias and his hated colleagues, was to drive into exile those citizens whose fortitude and virtue would have rendered them impatient of their tyranny. After this intelligence, Philotinus sought no more than the name of the place whither they had retired, fully persuaded that he need only to repare thither to meet his father. And immediately on being answered that the most considerable of the exiled were at Tegyra, he directed his course toward that town, where Pelopidas, Cephisodorus, Melon, Theopompus and many other noble Thebans were mourning the distresses of their country, and concerting the means of retrieving them.

The while Dioxippus, presuming on the long intimacy that had subsisted between him and Timophanes the son of Archias, hastened to Thebes, prepared alike with them to oppress his native country, provided they would share their power with him. But discovering that the remembrance of his father's virtues deterred the tyrants from forming any association with him, he took a resolution to join himself to the exiles, and repared to Tegyra, where loudly declaiming against all tyranny, he endeavored to obliterate the impressions which his journey to Thebes might have made. Thus he induced the exiles to receive him if not with confidence at least with respect. But his haughtiness, the impetuosity of his character and the small share of reflexion which he possessed kept them all at the most distant reserve,
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and neither did Pelopidas nor the other Theban chieftains hold any intimacy with him. Philotimus, on the contrary, enjoyed their entire confidence, and if his young experience permitted not the exiles to ask his council in the conferences which they frequently held on the present state of Thebes and on the measures requisite to restore to her her glory and freedom, yet they often admitted him among them, being fully assured of his discretion, and they let him see that, when the time for action should arrive, they were convinced that his courage would justify the idea which they had conceived and which they ought naturally to entertain of the son of Cephisodorus.

Philotimus nevertheless enjoyed at Tegyra a leisure which was the more secure as Pelopidas and Cephisodorus had determined to be-

begin no enterprise without first seeing how Sparta would resolve concerning Phæbidas's capture of the Cadmea, and without knowing in what light the Greeks would consider this act of hostility, done in profound peace against a city that was free and also one of the most considerable of Greece.

It was now some years since a stranger in respectable station had fixed his residence at Tegyra; he was of the order of the Magi, and had once held distinguished honours before the presence of the great King (*f*), but had been deposed from his favor by the intrigues of certain Satraps who could not endure to find that in a court so licentious as that of Ecbatana, a man should dare to live virtuous. The conduct of Misithres (for that was the

(*f*) The King of Persia, so called by the Greeks.

name of that celebrated Magus) was a secret reproof of theirs. The prince might make comparisons and then they were undone. Therefore it behoved them to drive this dangerous man from among them. They arraigned him of no crimes, that the most daring calumny had not courage to attempt; but they accused him with the most delusive semblance of truth, of having adopted a system of administration hurtful of the public weale, and that insinuation was effectual to exclude him from the court of a prince of feeble understanding and whose eyes discerned not but thro' the prism of flattery. Misithres, less troubled at his disgrace than satisfied to find himself restored to tranquility, retired into Ionia; but disgusted to find the same vices reigning there also, he abandoned Asia for ever and came to seek out a
retreat

retreat in Greece, there to dwell in private station, to cultivate wisdom in his peaceful retirement and devote his care to the education of the youthful Palmis his only daughter. The climate of Beotia and delightful situation of Tegyra invited him to fix his mansion there. When that his virtues had made him fully known to them, all the inhabitants vied with each other to render it agreeable to him, and by a public decree conferred upon him every privilege of citizens, except the right of assisting in assemblies of the people, from which, by the general law of Greece, all strangers are excluded.

The reputation of Misithres excited in Philotimus an ardent desire to be acquainted with that good old man, that he might derive from his discourses new arguments
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to invigorate his pursuit of virtue : and the esteem with which the illustrious Theban exiles honored Philotimus, inclined Misithres to receive him with benevolent regard. At first they saw each other frequently in the sacred grove which surrounds the temples of the Tegyrean Apollo and of Juno, but the wise Misithres, speedily charmed with the sagacity and good-nature of the Theban youth, introduced him at his house. No sooner did Philotimus behold Palmis but he felt wants unknown before, and found his heart laboring with strange emotions. He had at Athens seen and been stricken with the beauties of Aspasia and Leontium; his senses had been dazzled therewith, but till then nothing had ever spoken to his soul. Their artifices might have availed to seduce him for some moments; but the deceit which

which he discovered in them quickly dispelled the clouds of illusion. He knew that borrowed charms were far below the artless graces of nature, and that coquetry can never fill the place of pure sentiment. This distaste made him imagine that he should preserve through all his life the indifference which he then enjoyed, and that his heart should never yield to any other beauties than those of friendship and beneficence. But the view of a beauty sincere, sensible, and unaffected, in whose eyes the chastest soul was depicted, and whose brow was the seat of the truest nobility and candor, convinced Philotimus that love never loses his dominion over an ingenuous and generous mind. On the other hand, the daughter of Misithres, comparing Philotimus with the rest of the Beotians, and observing that he possessed all their freedom and simplicity,

plicity, without their dullness and rusticity, and also entertaining a favorable opinion of his character, because she had heard her father speak his praise, could not defend her soul from the invasion of a train of tender feelings, which she was the less solicitous to withstand as she thought them excited only by friendship and esteem. These feelings led her insensibly to entertain the desire of being beloved by him; but deceived in the nature of this desire, she imagined that she only sought the friendship of Philotimus, whilst a passion of a more exalted tendency than she suspected was ripening at her heart. This ignorance of the real state of her affections, made her express, in her reception of Philotimus, less reserve and far more ease in her deportment than she had shewn, if, in the confusion of her ideas, she had perceived

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ceived the rudiments of that fond attachment which were just then upon the point of disclosing themselves. Philotimus, on the other hand, who still more deeply studied the changes of his own heart, found himself unable to vanquish his embarrassment. The timidity which inseparably attends on real love, the modest opinion which Philotimus had conceived of himself, filled him with apprehensions lest he should never become pleasing in the eyes of Palmis, without whom notwithstanding he saw no happiness reserved for him. The more that love multiplied to his view the charms and the virtues of Palmis, the less hope had he of approving himself deserving of them; and the more that he imagined himself inferior to her, the more did his despondency thereat increase.

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The wise Misithres, enlightened by a long experience and profound knowledge of the human heart, remaned not for any space of time e'er he read in both their eyes the first impressions of a growing love. This discovery did not persuade him to contradict their mutual inclination. Relying on the principles implanted by a virtuous education both in his daughter and Philotimus, a secret joy glowed in his bosom approving their attachment; he knew that in generous and noble souls Love becomes a motive the most cogent to be virtuous. Beside Philotimus and Palmis were worthy of each other, and the paternal affection of Misithres wished, with impatient zeale, to bestow his daughter on so estimable a Consort.

The timidity of Philotimus increased still as he perceived that Palmis lost that freedom which at first appeared in her demeanor ; he imagined that he saw aversion in the constraint which succeeded thereto, whilst it was only the presage of his victory. Palmis more undeceived by reflecting on herself, became now conscious of her passion for Philotimus, and therefore watched her conduct with severer caution. Her looks, which, till that time, had never expressed to Philotimus any thing beyond the simple pleasure to salute the friend of her father, were now no sooner directed toward him, than they were incontinently snatched away and glanced upon some other object ; and these symptoms of the purest flame appeared to the diffident Philotimus as demonstrations of dislike. Thus
both

both were equally in pain : She, from the scrupulous restraint which she had enjoined on herself; he from the cruel doubts that persecuted him. This state of violence could not be of long duration. Love, like the Camellion assumes the tint of every character, and Palmis and Philotimus were actuated by souls too open and averse from all disguise for his not seeking to dispel the incertitude by which he was tormented, and for her not abjuring all dissimulation.

I love thee, beauteous Palmis, said Philotimus at length, and I know in nature no delight equal to what I find in telling thee so. Ever since I became acquainted with the condition of my heart, I ten thousand times resolved to confess to thee the flame which thou hast lighted up therein, and as oft did the word ex-

pire upon my lips. I imagined thou did'st fly my presence. I feared to displease thee and was silent. I should not even now perhaps have broken this killing silence, if it were possible for me to die without having told thee that I would willingly have lived for thee. My passion, lovely Palmis, is pure and exalted as its divine principle, and unchangable as are thy virtues. Deign to tell me what I must hope or fear, for with a single word thou mayest fix my destiny. If I shall prove so wretched as to win no share in thy affections, the revolutions which are just now impending over Greece will present me various occasions of terminating a life which could not in every moment of its existence be dedicated to adore thee. I shall not describe to thee how great would be my happiness on thy favorable declaration ; my heart feeleth it thro' all

all its powers, but where should I find terms to express it? Philotimus, replied Palmis, my candor will not allow me to conceal from thee my satisfaction at thy tender passion, and would that my father Misithres did command me to requite it! The friendship which he hath so oft expressed for thee, inclineth me to hope that he will never contradict a virtuous inclination, but without his approbation, I neither can nor ought I to give thee any confidence.

Obey your mutual loves, my Children, said Misithres, who just had overheard the conclusion of their discourse; love and be again beloved, you will become a blessing to each other, and both will soothe the cares of my old age. I know the resemblance of your dispositions, you are formed to be united. Cephisodorus'

phileodorus' prudent fondness for his son assureth me of his consent, and I now freely grant you mine, At these words, Philotimus, who had thrown himself at the feet of Palmis and Misithres, attempted to express to them his gratitude and love which his broken words depicted far better than he thought. A tender smile and serene joy characterized the perfect satisfaction of the youthful Palmis, and the effusions of grateful thanks which she bestowed on her father assured Philotimus indirectly of the most impassioned return. I share your transports, my children, replied Misithres, but I foresee that you will have but a short space of time to devote yourselves to them. Thou, Philotimus, above the consideration of every other pursuit, art bound to serve thy country; Sparta hath at length made known her sentiments: firm in the
hated

hated maxims introduced by Lyfander, she hath censured Phæbidas for having surprized the Cadmea amid the security of peace, but she would enjoy the perfidy and retain the citadel. Pelopidas and Cepisodorus, from whom I am just now come, burn with indignation, and breath nought but vengeance. They have not imparted to me the projects which they may have formed ; but knowing that I am too vehement an enemy to all oppression to be a favorer of tyranny, they have not scrupl'd to acquaint me that they were resolving on some high design. Thy illustrious sire, my dear Philotimus, will not permit thy arm to remain inactive, thou wilt e'er long be summoned to battle ; and I too well know thy magnanimity, to think that thou wilt hesitate even for one instant to fly to thy country's aid. Seize occasion of the delay

lay which the wisdom of thy leaders deemeth convenient for the effectual execution of their enterprize, to visit thy Palmis, it is agreeable to my desire ; but when the moment shall approach, go and deserve her hand or her tears, and be assured that thou wilt be attended by her prayers and mine.

At this unexpected intelligence, Philotimus embraced Misithres, and cast himself at the knees of Palmis, bedewing her hands with tears of fondness : I leave thee, said he, my beloved Palmis, Thebes and Cephsodorus command my service, I go that I may again behold thee more worthy of thy virtues. I shall love thee, be assured, even to my latest sigh ; if the gods permit, I will again return and renew to thee my vows of eternal truth. With these words Philotimus departed and
hasted

hasted to join Cephisodorus, who having confirmed to him all that Misithres had reported, conducted him to the house of Pelopidas, where the other Theban chiefs were met in council. There, after having explained to him the designs which they had formed, in order to restore to Thebes her ancient liberty, they directed him to go forthwith to Athens, to inform the sage Caridemus of their intentions, that he might warn Pherenicus and the exiles who had taken refuge there, to hold themselves equipt for marching when the hour for action should arrive. As Caridemus could not be suspected, Philotimus and Cephisodorus had from the beginning, agreed with Pherenicus, to impart their projects to each other through that channel. Philotimus began his journey.

The

The object first presented to his view on entering the house of Caridemus was his beloved friend Sifinnes who returning from Scythia came to spend his life in Greece in the bosom of friendship. He judged it expedient first to repair to Athens, in hope that if Philotimus was not there he might be told by Caridemus where he was to be found. Souls made for friendship, for some perhaps even in those evil days are still surviving, will imagine to themselves what their mutual joy was at this meeting. Philotimus thought it unnecessary to conceal from Sifinnes the motive of his journey, and he applauding the noble purpose of the Theban exiles, earnestly sought in company with his friend to share the glory and the danger of the enterprise.

The

The necessary measures being concerted with Pherenicus, Philotimus again set out together with Sifinnes to return to Tegyra. They arrived at the very juncture when Cephisodorus, Melon and Pelopidas were preparing to depart for Thebes, upon advice received from Epaminondas and Charon who had remaned in that city. The tyrants had not included them in the number of the exiles, because they held them in contempt, the one for his poverty and his love of study; the other for that he bore no part in state affairs. The arrival of Philotimus gave the more pleasure to the conspirators, as the relation which he gave them of the dispositions of Pherenicus and of his associates was equal to the high opinion which they had conceived of the sentiments of the Thebans.

F

Sifinnes

Sifinnes was introduced to Cephi-
fodorus by his Son, and the vir-
tuous Scythian was from that
hour accounted worthy to be
adopted by them for their glorious
attempt.

Yet, notwithstanding the ardor
which Philotimus expressed in the
service of his country, all his sen-
timents were not limited by those
of duty alone: Palmis, ever present
to his mind, possessed his soul as
he journied along, and he was
happy in the thought that the
intervening time between his arrival
and departure would permit him to
devote some moments to Love. He
flew to the house of Misithres;
Palmis and her father imagined that
he was still at Athens: and no
sooner did they cast their eyes upon
him, than love and friendship in
their most gracious smiles were
depicted

depicted in their countenances. I am come, said Philotimus, to repeat my vows to thee, and to acquaint thee that thou shalt never more behold me, if I return not worthy the noble sentiments which I require from thee. Be thou still my father, wife Misithres; let me ever live in thy fond remembrance, my lovely Palmis, and if I attain the happiness to see my country secure in liberty and peace, then every moment of my life shall be consecrated to thee. Pursue, my son, replied Misithres, pursue the great career that lies before thee, shew thyself an honest citizen, the foe of tyranny and usurpation; and rely upon the unshaken affection of thy friend and of thy wife. For, my son, as such do I look on Palmis; especially since Cephisodorus, with whom I have had some conversation, whilst thou

wert absent at Athens --- What, does then my father? --- Yes, my dear Philotimus, replied Palmis, he is acquainted with every circumstance, he hath applauded our loves, and hath already called me his daughter. Philotimus transported at these words, gave a loose to the most lively manifestations of love and joy, when Misithres, warning him of the waste of time, constrained him to forsake the knees of Palmis. Go, my beloved Philotimus, said she, I repine not at thy duty; but whilst thou art fulfilling, it remember [that my life dependeth upon thine. Philotimus enraptured, kissed her hand : Now, let us go my son, said Misithres, I attend thee to thy father whom I am impatient to embrace once more.

The

The Conspirators were met to proceed for Thebes, they were in number only sixty, and of these no more than twenty could with prudence venture to approach the town together; the two remaining thirds concealing themselves in ambush without the walls to avoid the suspicion of the Lacedemonians. The gallant Theopompus, thro' his antient wounds, unequal to the toil of a precipitate march, was posted at Tegyra with the reserved body of the Conspirators, there to await the coming of Pherenicus, and to instruct him how to act according to accident and circumstances.

From the very first formation of the plot, Pelopidas, fearing the impetuous and rash temper of Dioxippus, had taken special care not to discover to him their true

intent; but, as it was not possible, absolutely, to conceal from him, that he was meditating some important stroke, he gave some hints, that, prompted by his apprehension for the preservation of the rest of Beotia, he was hasting to rouse the other cities thereof, to war against the Lacedemonians, whilst Theopompus should defend Tegyra, which, as the only city that retained it's freedom, was therefore of the utmost consequence. Pelopidas saw it unavoidably necessary to impose this deceit on Dioxippus, who allied to the most powerful families in Thebes, had a numerous body of friends, not only among the citizens, who secretly wished to see the destruction of their tyrants, but even among the conspirators themselves. And Dioxippus, amused by the pretended confidence of Pelopidas, and imagining

gining that Tegyra was the chief object of his fears, indulged his vain pride in abiding there, and accounted himself the prop of Beotia. Even Theopompus, tho' related to Dioxippus, commended the wise precautions of Pelopidas; he was not blind to the vices of that youth, and was convinced, how incumbent it was on all of them not to entrust to his imprudence, a cause that bore with it the preservation of their country.

At length the hour being come, the sixty conspirators began their march, proceeding in this order; the twenty appointed first to enter Thebes, among whom were Philotimus and Sifinnes, were led on by Pelopidas and Cepisodorus, and the forty others by Gorgidas and Melon. They were cloathed
in

in the dress of Peasants, and that dress, aided by the night, which began to embrown the face of nature as they drew nigh the gates of Thebes, secured them from the notice of the centinel; and they repaired unobserved to the house of Charon (g), who looked

(g) Plutarch, in his life of Pelopidas, relates a circumstance of this famous conspiracy, particularly concerning Charon, which so highly characterises republican heroism, and the effects arising from a wise legislation, that I beg leave to transcribe it — “ They had not been long at table
 “ before a rumor was spread among
 “ them, which, though not false, seemed
 “ uncertain, and confirmed by no cir-
 “ cumstance, that the exiles lay some-
 “ where concealed in the city. Philidas
 “ did what he could to divert the dis-
 “ course; but Archias sent an officer to
 “ Charon, to command his immediate
 “ attendance. By this time it was grow-
 “ ing

looked for them with impatience.
By this worthy citizen they were
informed,

“ ing dark, so that Pelopidas and his
“ friends were preparing for action, having
“ their Armor on already, and their swords
“ girt ; when on a sudden, a great knock-
“ ing was heard at the door, whereupon
“ one stepping forth to know the mean-
“ ing of it, and learning from the Officer,
“ that he was come with an order to
“ carry Charon to Archias, he returned
“ in great haste and confusion, to give
“ them an account of this terrible news.
“ Every one at first believed that the
“ whole plot was discovered, and that
“ they should be all destroyed, without
“ being able to perform any one exploit
“ worthy of their undaunted bravery and
“ resolution. However, they were unani-
“ mous in their opinion that Charon
“ should obey the order, and appear
“ boldly before the tyrants, as no way
“ terrified or conscious of any guilt. Charon
“ being a man of great firmness and in-
“ trepidity, was unmoved at the danger that
“ threatened himself, but full of concern
“ for

informed, that the tyrants seemed
to be sunk in the most profound
security,

“ for the safety of his friends; and apprehending that he might be suspected of treachery, in case so many valiant citizens should be destroyed, before he left the house, he went into the women’s apartment, and brought out his only son, who was very young, but for beauty and strength superior to any of his age, and with these words delivered him to Pelopidas.” “ If you find me a traitor, use this boy as an enemy, and be cruel in the execution ” “ The affliction and the magnanimity of Charon, drew tears from many; but it extremely troubled them all, that he should think any one among them could be guilty of such baseness, or cowardice, at the time of danger, as either to suspect, or blame his conduct; and they most earnestly besought him not to leave his son with them, but to remove him somewhere to a place of safety, that so he might one day revenge his friends and country, if he was so happy as to escape
the

security, but that it would be impracticable to destroy them all together; because that Philidas, who, to do the more effectual service to his country, thought it advisable to put on the semblance of a traitor, by joining her oppressors, could not assemble at his house more than Archias, Timophanes and Philippus, to whom he was that very night giving a most sumptuous banquet; that as Leonidas and Hypatus were not of

“ the tyrants fury. But Charon absolutely
 “ refused to remove him,” saying, “ What
 “ life, what safety can be more honorable,
 “ than to die bravely with his father, and
 “ with so many generous friends and com-
 “ panions?” “ Then imploring the pro-
 “ tection of the Gods, and embracing, and
 “ encouraging them all, he parted.”——
 ’Twas but a false alarm, but the great-
 ness of Charon’s mind is not the less to be
 admired.

the

the company, it was by all means requisite that they should divide their powers, the better to assail them all at once, and overthrow tyranny by one strenuous effort: that accordingly, it were fit that Pelopidas and Cephisodorus, should with one body of the Conspirators beset the houses of Leontidas and Hypatus, whilst he should conduct the rest to that of Philidas, that they might surprize Archias and Timophanes therein. Epaminondas, continued he, is in immediate readiness; he hath assembled, and privately supplied with arms the loyal citizens, with whom he may watch the advanced guard of the Lacedemonians, and prevent them from receiving such of the tyrants or of their adherents, as may happen to escape from them; but his chief attention may be exerted to intercept all communication

munication with the Cadmea, that no one may inform the garrison of the smallness of our number.

This plan of action meeting general approbation, this heroic band began their rout in the gloom and silence of the night : every thing prospered to their wishes, the tyrants fell by their swords spight of the resistance of their Satellites, and immediately, all of them uniting into one body at the loud shouts of liberty, which now resounded through the city, and having opened the gates to admit the forces of Gorgidas and Melon, fell with irresistible impetuosity on the Lacedemonian advanced guard, whom they put indiscriminately to the sword. No reinforcement was received from the citadel, for the Spartan Governor, misled by the tumult,

G

and

and echoed acclamations of the people intoxicated by success, took their shouts of joy and the wild fury of their motions, for the effect of a potent army. Moreover, the darkness of the night deterred him from any hazardous attempt, and when the morn arose to illustrate the glory of the deliverers of Thebes, the opportunity of resisting them was lost for ever. An enthusiastic love of their country, springing up in every heart, gave courage to the meanest, and transformed the obscurest citizen to a hero. Pelopidas, Cephisodorus and Charon, were with general applause proclaimed rulers of Beotia, and their brave compeers by their consent ratified the people's choice.

Thebes now beheld the dawn
of liberty: her traiterous sons
that

that oppressed her vitals, were now no more ; but whilst the Cadmea remaned in the hands of the Lacedemonians, that liberty must ever be precarious. The least delay might be attended with danger, a new exertion of rapid courage, was therefore the only means to make Beotia formidable to Sparta. They must complete their conquest or be slaves again. This alternative, in which the virtuous citizen is not allowed his freedom of election, no otherwise dismayed the Theban heroes, than as they saw that valor singly, was unequal to the great attempt, unless supported by one of these prodigies which heaven, to favor virtue, is often fond of interposing.

In such perplexity were they suspended, when Pherenicus, who

let not one moment pass unimproved, arrived at the gates of Thebes, followed by the remainder of the exiles, joined by a considerable body of Beotians, who filled with affection for their native country, and inspired with auspicious hopes of an enterprize, led by Pelopidas and Cephisodorus, were ambitious to share with them in glory. They formed a column of two thousand men, invincible through the sentiments by which they were actuated. The casual arrival of this relief revived the fainting hopes of the Theban leaders. They determined forthwith to make a general assault upon the Cadmea, and that became the triumph of their virtue, the seal of their liberty. The courage of the Spartans for a long time held the victory in even scale, till at length Philotimus
and

and Sifinnes, who were inseparable in every danger of the fight, and had vanquished all that were so hardy as to withstand their might, having broke into the place, followed by a company of gallant Thebans, ranged themselves for battle upon a platform adjoining to the ramparts, and decided the victory by that achievement; the Beotian arms prevailed on every side, and the Cadmea was retaken.

The splendors of so bright a day were dimmed by the affliction of Cephisodorus: Philotimus and Sifinnes now fought against a very small number of the enemy, which were all that remained in arms, and were prompted by despatch, to make resistance, when Sifinnes was wounded by a Spartan soldier. Although the wound was superficial, he, for some moments, was rendered de-

fenceless, and he that inflicted it had just raised his arm to repeat the stroke, when Philotimus, as quick as lightening, cast himself between his friend and the impending javelin, by which he received a deep wound, whilst he avenged that of Sisinnus, by the death of the Lacedemonian. Mean time, every thing giving way to the intrepid valor of Pelopidas and Cephisodorus ; that tender father arriving at the spot, and beholding his son weltering in blood, was assured that he was expiring, and forthwith determined to follow him ; Pelopidas withheld his arm : whilst the wounds of the two friends being examined, Sisinnus was found to have suffered but a slight one ; Philotimus was in far more danger, but the hurt was not pronounced mortal, and every heart relieved from apprehension, was filled with
the

the esteem and admiration of a deed of such transcendent virtue.

Sifinnes, whose health was very soon established, passed every moment of the day in anxious attendance on Philotimus. He used no asseverations of his gratitude ; refined and exalted friendship is a stranger to that term, employed by none but vulgar souls, to express the approbation which they are constrained to bestow on virtuous actions, that exceed their own abilities ; but Sifinnes testified to Philotimus the joy he experienced at being indebted for his life, to a friend, for whom he would have freely sacrificed his own. When, by the prompt assistance of art and watchful care of Cephisodorus and Sifinnes, Philotimus was restored to health and vigor : My beloved friend, he thus addressed Sifinnes,
thou

thou surely, even until now,
 hast imagined that my soul is ani-
 mated with no sentiments but those
 of our friendship alone ; the indif-
 ference which thou did'st perceive in
 me, during our abode at Athens,
 for the objects of every other passi-
 on may justly have inclined thee to
 think so: but though that friendship
 constitutes my happiness, it does
 not render it complete. Love hath
 usurped a dominion in my heart,
 since I first resided at Tegyra. I
 love, I adore the fairest work of the
 creative hand of Nature. Others
 are called beautiful and virtuous,
 but thou, O Palmis, art Beauty,
 art Virtue itself ! Nourished by the
 tender care, and taught by the pre-
 cepts of the most venerable of man-
 kind, she, my friend, hath all that
 can make a consort happy ; and
 my father, who applauds my pas-
 sion, will not refuse to complete my
 ardent

ardent wishes, so soon as Beotia shall be established in peace. My intention, when we together departed from Athens, after mustering the exiles who lay concealed there, was to make thee acquainted with the charming object of my love; in fullest confidence, that thou, my dear Sifinnes, would'st approve my choice, and that the esteem which the virtues of Palmis would inspire thee with, would promote thy happiness, when therein thou sawest that of thy friend so firmly ensured. But thou knowest that the moment of our arrival at Tegyra was almost that of our departure for Thebes, every measure being concerted for that glorious revolution, which completed the destruction of our tyrants. Therefore, I had only time sufficient to present thee to my father, and to give Palmis assurance of my constancy. Now, for before
this

this time, fame has surely told at Tegyra, together with the news of our victory, that I have been wounded ; I entreat thee by our friendship to go thither, to inform Palmis and Misithres her father of my safety ; and declare to them, that my fondest desire is to live in their hearts, even as they in mine. Tell them, besides, that when my duty shall allow it, I will fly to claim my happiness, and to implore Misithres and Palmis to ratify it for ever, before the altar of the Gods. Yes, my dear Philotimus, replied Sisinnus, I obey thy request with pleasure, and rely on my ardent zeale to serve thee. Thy Palmis, e'er long, shall be assured of thy faithful passion ; and that thou art well deserving of her love, as I am persuaded she is worthy thine. My journey shall encounter no delay, that friendship which urges my departure

parture shall hasten my return to thee. The Gods, I hope, ordain it so, replied Philotimus ; thou art now become wellnigh a Theban, and my country, who numbers thee of her deliverers, may justly call upon thee to accomplish the great work thou hast begun. Thou hast only at thy disposal the few moments of tranquility, which we enjoy from the truce procured to us by the astonishment of the Spartans ; and I exult in the prospect of our being associates in arms to the termination of the war. Sifinnes set out, after he had visited Cephisodorus, who besought him to greet Misithres for him, and to assure Palmis of his impatience to see her immediately united in marriage with his son.

No sooner did Sifinnes reach Tegyra, than he repared to the
house

house of Misithres. That good old man was plunged in affliction, which was the more poignant as he was forced to smother it within his breast, the better to alleviate the despere of Palmis ; a lying rumor had reported to them, that Philotimus, by a mortal wound, had closed his days ; and the disconsolate maid, ever since that killing news, dwelling on the gloomy ideas of the anguish in which she pined away, neither looked, nor hoped, nor sighed for any thing but death. In vain did she pour out the bitterness of her soul in the bosom of her father ; in vain did the wise old man employ all the powers of Philosophy to persuade her to be resigned to the dispensation of fate, to support with calmness an irreparable calamity : her soul could not listen to the voice of consolation ; and the consoler himself was betrayed in his endeavors
by

by the tears which he involuntarily dropped to the memory of the generous Philotimus. Palmis watched these tears, and casting herself into her father's arms, mixed her laments with his, while their grief, instead of being pacified by communication, the rather increased, and from the merit of its object, derived still new vehemence. Oft times, unable to sustain the presence of his despairing daughter, would Mithres seize the moments, when the spirit of Palmis, born down by the weight of her misfortunes, gave respite to her wailings, to vent his sorrows in retirement, and to mourn his unhappy child and the untimely fate of the husband whom he designed for her. In one of these occasions, Sifinnes presented himself before him. At the first words he uttered, Mithres recollecting to have seen him in company with Cephisodorus:

H

Woe

Woe is me ! he exclaimed, we have then lost him for ever, and thou undoubtedly art come to mix thy tears with ours,---in the bloom of youth ! ---and while he displayed so bright a dawn of every virtue!--ah! luckless Philotimus!-- What hast thou said, replied Sifinnes in amaze ? our alarms are dispell'd, and Thebes, whose hope and glory he is, rejoices at his restoration to health.----- Propitious Heaven ! cried the old man, shedding tears of joy, he is yet alive !----- He hath gained his country's applause!----- he,----- But, generous stranger, continued Misithres, while he clasped him in his embrace, be pleased to follow me, come and restore my languishing child to life ; and with hasty step (for joy in that instant had restored to him his pristine vigor) he led Sifinnes into a remote apartment of the house, where Palmis, pale, dejected,

dejected, and in gloomy silence was feeding the dismal Ideas of the calamity which she was persuaded had befallen her. My daughter, my beloved Palmis, said Misithres, catching her in his arms, behold a guardian deity comes to wipe away thy tears : my friend, my son, thy husband, his country's hero, Philotimus is living.——living ! cried Palmis : She could express no more. The vicissitude to such excess of joy deprived her of the power to speak ; this sudden transition from extreme affliction to a pleasure as extreme, was succeeded by a revolution too powerful to be endured, by a body wasted with affliction, and who, for several days, refused the use of every nourishment ; her eyes, which in this unexpected gleam of hope, shot forth some rays of happiness, became extinct, and she sunk inanimate to

the ground. Misithres, again overwhelmed in sorrow, and in a condition well nigh as deplorable as hers, upbraiding himself for not having prudently avoided to affect the sensibility of so fond a lover, by gradually preparing her for the happy change, now exerted his utmost care to restore her to life, and Sisinnus melted beyond his apprehension, at this tender scene, aided his endeavors. How inexpressibly affecting to behold Palmis, while thus she lay suspended betwixt life and death ! A deathlike paleness was diffused over that countenance where, notwithstanding, every grace sat enthroned. This sight encreased the emotion of Sisinnus' soul ; beauty, it should seem, acquires a new dominion over our hearts, even in the very moment when we tremble for her. Compassion conspireth with our sentiments of admiration, and pierceth our

our hearts with wounds, which are the more dangerous, as we impute to humanity alone, the tears which are derived from a rising love. At length Palmis was restored to herself: And is he yet alive? she repeated, so soon as she could spake; and shall I then again behold him?—and is he?——Yes, my daughter, replied Misithres, we have been deceived by a false report, he lives, he loves thee with unceasing ardor, and sends the brave Sifinnes, his friend and companion in war, to assure thee of his faith. My heart, replied Palmis, will scarce yield to trust that flattering hope; Ah! do not impose upon me! Do not, thro' cruel pity——Can it be true, that he is restored to me?——my father!——What? Philotimus,——place no confidence in what I say, fair Palmis, said Sifinnes interrupting her; but let thy own

eyes convince thee of Philotimus's safety, and of his tender passion for thee. He then delivered her a letter, which his friend had written, to the following purport.

PHILOTIMUS to PALMIS.

M*Y friend, Sifinnes, will inform thee, that the first word that issued from my lips, the moment I was able to utter an articulated sound, was the beloved name of Palmis. The debility which still remains, in consequence of my wound, prevents me from describing my affection for thee, in terms as ardent as my wishes. But, dearest Palmis, thou hast no doubt either of my tender love or constancy, and I need do no more than to relieve thy apprehension for my safety. Preserve for me that invaluable treasure, thy heart, for in that, thou knowest is centered*

centered the completion of my highest happiness. My duty will, perhaps, for some time longer, detain me from thy presence: for exclusive of the obstacle thereto arising from my present condition, I am bound to justify the esteem with which Thebes have honored me, and to continue to shew myself deserving of thee. Be not reserved in expressing thy sentiments before Sifinnes, who is my second self; I shall ask him a thousand questions, even concerning the very circumstances of which thy answer may sufficiently inform me. Farewel, my dearest Palmis.

Yes! she with rapture exclaimed, if on the possession of my heart thy happiness is founded, then surely, beloved Philotimus, thou art happy. But tell me, O Sifinnes, say, I conjure thee by the sacred friendship

ship thou bearest him, if I have any
 future cause of fear? What do I
 say? fool that I am! While he is
 preparing to return to battle, can
 I ask if there be any cause of fear!
 Let him, O Sisinnes, obey the voice
 of glory, I yield, since so it must
 be, and that his duty commandeth
 it, but let him heedfully avoid every
 rash adventure. Yet, cruel hea-
 ven! what would be my fate?
 what would betide my father, who
 places his chiefest consolation in the
 hopes of calling him one day his
 son? Describe to him, in the most
 vivid terms, the condition in which
 thou didst just now find me;
 that he may preserve me from the
 tryal of any new alarms, for I am
 conscious of my inability to with-
 stand them. Overpowered and af-
 flicted as I am, both with my late
 sorrows and the joy which now suc-
 ceeds to them, a fresh calamity
 would

would put a period to my days, and cut short the life of a tender father, who lives only through me.-----But give Philotimus all possible assurance that my life dependeth upon his, and that his disconsolate Palmis,----Yes, said Sifinnes interrupting her, I shall with exectest care fulfil thy directions, and will report thy passion to him, of the purity of which there surely can no doubt remain. I will endeavor, in most lively colors, to paint to him thy excessive anguish, thy fears and joys; and by the power of words to promote his happiness, and even augment his love of thee, if so great a love can receive encrease. Yes, lovely Palmis, Philotimus was very dear to me, to him I owe my life; but thou hast found the art of binding me still closer to him. How precious, ye Gods, is not that heart which thou hast deemed worthy of
thine !

thine ! What inaffable delight to share——to be, oh heaven ! the object of thy choice, thy love !—— But I ought to hasten my departure ; I ought to fly to complete the joy of the too happy Philotimus. A delay protracted any longer would make me blameable, and his friendship might arraign me of unwillingness to gratify his impatience. Write to him then, divine Palmis, for every consideration urgeth me to leave thee speedily. Thus saying, he went out, followed by Misithres, and whilst they were taking a light refreshment, Palmis wrote the following letter.

PALMIS to PHILOTIMUS.

I *Was just resigning myself to death, my dear Philotimus, when thy friend Sifinnes arrived to tell me that thou art living, and to assure me*

me that thou dost still love me with unabated ardor. *Why, unkind! didst thou not reflect, before you marched out to battle, that the slightest alarm was enough to deprive me of life? Shoul'st thou not have dispatched a servant the moment that the engagement ended, to inform me of the result, and to dispel my apprehensions? I should have learned that thou wert wounded, but have thought that thou wert only wounded; my soul would have reposed on hope, and I should perhaps, have disregarded the terrifying remors that were propagated of thy death. Thou hast been on the very point of losing the fondest and most faithful lover existing: for had Sifinnes tarried but one day longer, I had been no more. Yes, presume to beseech me to preserve my heart for thee; have the confidence to require the*
conti-

continuance of an affection, the vehemence of which hath just urged me to the gates of death. Ah! cruel! it is rather I that may have reason to suspect the truth of thine, since thou art so regardless of the preservation of thy life. But virtue, but friendship would have it so, True, but could'st thou not have protected Sisinnus with thy shield, without exposing thy person to the javelin of his foe? Say, my dear Philotimus, had'st thou then one thought of Palmis? But why these expostulations? It may be apprehended, that I blame thy heroic exploit: no, Philotimus, a coward friend, I am conscious, could never yet be found a faithful lover; but endeavor to reconcile friendship and renown with love; and amid the new dangers which, perhaps, thou art just now preparing to encounter, remember, I implore thee to remember,

member still, that if thou art devoted to thy country, thou art also devoted to thy Palmis. Adieu, my dear Philotimus, adieu.

Palmis had scarce concluded her letter when Sisinnus returned to take leave of her. Farewel, virtuous Sisinnus, said she, taking him by the hand, farewel; be the guardian of my husband, be vigilant, I entreat thee, to preserve the life of my Philotimus, of thy friend Philotimus. Friendship is the sister of Love, and my heart rests all its hopes on thine. She would have prolonged her urgent supplications, and given vent to a new train of fears, if Sisinnus, who scarcely could disguise the agitation of his soul, had not hastened to repeat his promises to her, and forthwith departed.

I

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He had scarce passed from the gates of Tegyra when, in distraction at the gloomy condition of his mind, and the conflict of passions with which it was shaken, but above all, at finding himself unable to chase from thence the fascinating image of the lovely Palmis : What means, he cries, this tempest that racks my soul ? must I find that I have till now lived in happy philosophic tranquility, only to behold it dispelled at the first view of the wife of my friend ? Of a woman who neither loveth me, nor can possibly be induced to love me, and to whom my passion must never be disclosed ? I cannot hide from myself the fatal truth ; yes, I feel that I adore Palmis, who is already espoused to Philotimus. Yet, what end can I propose thereby ? shall I break the sacred bonds of friendship ?

ship? shall I betray a brave, a virtuous man, and strike a dagger in his bosom, in return for the life which he has preserved to me? No. Let me ever continue to be deserving of my friend, of my country, where my name will become a reproach, of the virtuous Dandamis my father, and lastly of myself. Palmis shall never know I love her; friendship shall aid me with resolution to suppress my sentiments in eternal silence, or at least to disguise them so effectually, that they shall for ever escape the observation either of Philotimus or her. I will accomplish something more. I will hasten to bring about the moment that shall unite them.-----Alas! and must I never call her mine! Oh! cruel heaven! Why was Philotimus so blessed, as to be the first presented to her view? Perhaps, with Deities equally propitious, I too could have

persuaded her to accept the offering of my heart.——But, how vainly do I repine ! I am shut out from every hope : and to be led devious by the most distant ray, were to become a monster of ingratitude and perfidy.

Such, or even more melancholy were the reflections that rent the heart of this virtuous Scythian. But, immutable in his principles, though he could not forget the charms of Palmis, he yet was master of himself, so far as not to feed a passion which his reason discommended. These were his resolutions when he rejoined his friend Philotimus. That youthful hero was now almost established in perfect health ; the presence of Sisinnus and letter from Palmis completed his recovery, and scarce was he recovered when the Thebans made preparation to repulse

pulse Cleombrotus king of Sparta, who was coming to deluge Beotia with a numerous army ; but all his designs were seen through, all the cities of that territory had declared their attachment to Thebes ; and Cleombrotus, who was assured that his presence alone would effect a conquest, perceived by this first resolution of the people, that it would not prove an easy victory. The Theban forces under Pelopidas their general, marched out to oppose him. The two armies came to an engagement between Tegyra and Platea ; the battle was fierce and obstinate, and victory was for a long time suspended in even balance : at length it was just preponderating on the side of Lacedemon, when Philotimus and Sisinnes followed by four hundred of the most gallant youths of Thebes, rushed on the wing of the Spartan phalanx,

and vanquished the stoutest opposition, broke their lines, and put them to the rout. This was as it were the signal of victory. Pelopidas took prompt advantage of his enemy's confusion, and by assailing him at once on every side, deprived him of the appellation of invincible. Cleombrotus with admirable address, converting his attack into defence, saved himself from the dishonor of a total overthrow : and the Theban commander, contented with the glory of being the first man that ever forced a Spartan to turn his back in flight, judged it not advisable to hazard the victory, by urging them to despire. Cleombrotus gave up the field, and retreated in good order ; his troops, accustomed of themselves to return to the charge, were still redoutable, and Pelopidas thought he had sufficiently atchieved, by shewing Thebes,

bes that Sparta might be vanquished on the open plain.

And now the name of Philotimus resounded thro' the Theban army, whilst the captains with unanimous applause, confessed that the conquest was purchased by his valor. Forthwith they prepared to crown him, and all waited with ardent impatience to reward his virtue, when lo! his band of four hundred warriors was seen approaching at a distance, some of them bore Sisinnus wounded on their shields, but Philotimus was missing of their number. The joyous shouts died away into murmurs of grief; they sought him out among the dead, but their search was ineffectual; hope was not yet totally extinct, when Sisinnus, at length reviving from a swoon in which he lay through loss of blood, cried with a feeble voice,

Philotimus

Philotimus is living, but he is Cleombrotus's captive. The enemy's numbers oppressed him, and bore him down, while I, at that same instant, covered over with wounds, was rendered unable to defend his liberty. For any thing beside forget your apprehensions, he has received no hurt, at least none that can be attended with fatal consequence. At this relation, Pelopidas conceiving hope that he should very soon redeem him from the enemy, calmed the vehemence of his grief. Sifinnes' wounds, upon inspection, were found to have reached no mortal part, and it was resolved in a council of the chiefs, to dispatch an herald to Cleombrotus, offering ten Spartan captains in return for Philotimus.

During these transactions in the Theban camp, Cleombrotus resolved.

ved to take advantage of the night, to obliterate the shame of his defeat by some bold, important stroke. Accordingly he placed himself at the head of a select body of two thousand men and marched straight toward Tegyra, which was but a few miles distant, with design to take that city by surprise. He reached the town about the middle of the night, and approaching in profoundest silence, placed his scaling ladders against the walls; already had several soldiers mounted to the ramparts, when the brave Theopompus who with Dioxippus remained at Tegyra, and who since the arrival of the Spartan forces in the neighbouring territory had kept a double guard, perceiving the multitude upon the walls, rushed quickly to that quarter, accompanied by Dioxippus and all the Thebans, and Tegyreans that were present with them.

them. Whilst the rest of the citizens ran to take up arms, they vallyantly withstood the fury of Cleombrotus, who finding himself discovered, attempted to carry by assault what he cou'd not accomplish by surprize. And now the ladders being overturned, and all the citizens assembled, Theopompus opened the gate and drove like lightning on the enemy; the Spartans astonished at this vigorous attack, at first gave way; they rallied and the generous Theopompus fell transfix'd with their javelins; but Dioxippus pursuing the intention of that illustrious Theban, at length repelled Clembrotus, who having lost eight hundred men in the assault, was forced to retire. The victorious Dioxippus was ador'd by the Tegyreans as their guardian deity; and on that very day the people ratified a decree to confer on him the crown of parsley and laurel,

laurel, reserved for the brows of those who distinguish themselves in their country's defence, and to add the greater splendor to this indication of their favour, they further enacted and commanded, that he shou'd be rewarded therewith on the day of the festival of the Tegyrean Apollo, which was shortly to be solemnized in most pompous manner.

In the interval of these events how fared the afflicted Palmis? She in the mean time, by the punctual care of Sifinnes, was acquainted both with the glory which Philotimus had won, and with the unlucky accident of his captivity. Alas! cried she, why does every wayward chance conjoin to delay my happiness? Philotimus groans in bondage at Sparta, and Sifinnes himself retarded by his wounds, could not deliver

liver me from this misfortune! Thus
 every circumstance conspires to vex
 the fondest love & purest friendship!
 thus does fortune sport in persecu-
 ting virtue! O! my Philotimus! how
 long am I doomed to be robbed of
 the joy to behold thee, to hear thee
 express thy great affection for me,
 to discern thy passion in thy eyes, to
 let thee read in mine the ardent re-
 turn thereto with which thou hast
 inspired me? Have the perverse
 fates yet any higher suffering in
 store for me? Alas! --- the fates had
 so decreed it, and were even then
 preparing to involve her in more
 alarming dangers.-----Dioxippus
 saw her at the Temple and was smit-
 ten with her charms; his savage soul
 was seen to relent, but his violent
 temper and impatient of the least
 delay, and the sacrifice was hardly
 ended when he thus accosted her:
 Well may'st thou exult, fair excel-
 lence,

lence, in the splendor of thy charms;
 till now I never knew the power of
 love; the glory of subduing me to
 his dominion was reserved for thee:
 why should the deliverer of thy
 country fear to be refused? I there-
 fore offer thee my hand, prepare to
 accept that envied honor. The ar-
 rogance of this declaration and com-
 manding tone in which it was ex-
 pressed would have irritated any one
 of far less sensibility than Palmis,
 even though her heart had not been
 pre-possessed by another object.
 But to her the proud Dioxippus
 appeared only to be contemptible;
 happy in her own dignity, she was
 not readily offended with the sen-
 timents or expressions of those who
 felt no concern therein; she there-
 fore unmoved by resentment, and
 with the noblest truth replied: I
 cannot, Dioxippus, listen to any
 asseverations of thy love; my faith

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is plighted and I wish not to regain my liberty; she offered to retire. Thou not free! replied Dioxippus whilst he endeavored to detene her. What! art thou, so young, already subjected to Hymen's laws? No, returned she, but I have yielded up my heart, which shall be faithful to its vows; here she again attempted to be gone. Stay, beauteous Tegyrean, stay, said Dioxippus; consider my rank and honors: I wish to share the glory of them with thee; I cannot suffer that such a store of charms should crown the happiness of any other; an obscure rival is not destined to contend with me for thy heart.-----An obscure rival, exclaimed Palmis! What! Philotimus, the guardian hero of Thebes, the conqueror of the Spartan legion.-----And is it him thou hast preferred to me? Is Philotimus the man to whom thy heart is attached?

ed? By what atchievement hath he deserved to be compared with me? Resign, I pray thee, resign such abject, such ignoble sentiments; Dioxippus only is worthy of thee. Palmis, provoked at the insolent contempt for his rival which he dared to express, could not withhold some sarcasms, prompted by a generous indignation, but the passion of Dioxippus acquiring vehemence from opposition: I have dwelt too long, said he, on supplication, Tegyra shall decide betwixt Philotimus and me, we shall see if gratitude will permit her citizens to hesitate between us. Thus saying he left her, whilst his eyes flashed with pride and anger. Palmis, with looks expressing her abhorrence, and scarce able to support herself, hastened to seek consolation in the arms of Mithres, O my father, cri'd she, her voice interrupted by sighs, what a rival

hath envious fate opposed to Philotimus! Dioxippus.-----What! Dioxippus,-----Yes, the detestable Dioxippus would compel me to surrender my hand to him. Alas! what force sufficient to extort my compliance, even though I had not loved Philotimus? An unconquerable horror seizeth me as often as I behold that haughty, supercilious man; at his presence my blood regurgitates toward my heart, and he it is that would persuade me to forget my solemn vows! Me, my father, me who for Philotimus would disdain a proffered world! And, who is this presumptuous Dioxippus? inflated with a success, the glory of which he inherits only by the death of the generous Theopompus, he thinks every thing should bend to his desire; he no more remembers that none of our citizens respected him before this attempt

attempt of the Lacedemonian ; but his vanity, puffed up by the honors which they have decreed him, hath persuaded him to imagine himself equal to a demigod ; love, promises and vows are all to be forgotten when he speaks.-----Be comforted, my dearest Palmis, said Mithres, he can obtene thee from none but me, and thou knowest me too well to fear that I should prefer him to Philotimus. I doubt not, my father, of thy opinion ; but, the monster !---he hath threatened to demand me from the people as the reward of his deserts, but, I will not live to become his slave. Could I be capable of forgetting thee, my beloved Philotimus, could I be united with the man who dared to despise thee ? O ! all ye Gods ! rather let my heart-----Collect thyself, my child, replied Mithres ; he will not ven-

ture to tear thee from thy father's arms ; nay more, I am attached to the Tegyreans only by the rights of hospitality, and those do not demand that I should sacrifice my daughter. I would far rather abandon my retirement, and forsake their town, than consent that thou should'st violate thy first engagement. However, prudence requires that thou should'st withdraw from public view ; the passions of Dioxippus are instant, but they are of short duration ; it may be that, when he shall no more behold thee, he will forget both his love and thy refusal, and perhaps, we may have suffered these alarms without reason.

Mean time Cleombrotus, chagrined at his repulse from Tegyra, retreated to his camp, where he kept himself upon the defensive,
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in full assurance that the Thebans could not force him thence. There he received the deputation from Pelopidas for the ransom of Philotimus: but dreading the valor of that youthful hero, he rejected the proposed exchange, and in answer said, that Sparta was but little concerned in the fate of such of her citizens, who preferred captivity to death; and that as to the rebels (for so he chose to represent the Thebans) the Ephores should determine on those who were in his power: lastly, that the slight advantage which Pelopidas had gained, could only serve to add more renown to Sparta's approaching conquest. This proud reply spread dismay and consternation through the Thebans. An apprehension immediately arose, lest in the tumultuous rage, which the shame of being beaten, should excite at Spar-
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ta, the Ephores might put the prisoners to death, if Cleombrotus were suffered to transport them thither. Above all, Sifinnes, who trembled for the safety of his friend, thought on nothing but revenge. His wounds were scarcely healed, when having assembled the band of four hundred youthful Thebans, who, under the conduct of Philotimus had weighed down the scale of victory, they bound themselves by a solemn oath to die or rescue him from captivity. In order to accomplish this determination, two of their number, who had dwelt some years in Laconia, and even in Sparta, disguised themselves in the dress of Helots (*b*), and went into the Lacedemonian camp, intent on learning there what sentence

(*b*) Lacedemonian slaves.

had been passed on the Theban prisoners. They discovered that in two days Cleombrotus would send them under a numerous guard to Sparta. On this intelligence, Sifinnes, having previously viewed the places with attention, resolved to lie in ambush in the sacred groves of the Leuctrides (*i*). No armed men till then had ever dared to

(*i*) The Leuctrides were three Beotian damsels, who dwelt in the neighbourhood of Leuctra, whence they derived their name. Certain Spartans journeying toward Beotia, sought the protection of their father Scedafus, who entertained them in his house with the kindest hospitality: But they repaid his generosity with ingratitude and violence, debauching and murdering his daughters. The afflicted father appealed to the Ephores for justice, but not obtaining his request, he in despair slew himself upon his children's tomb. Immediately after the
Lacede-

to profane them ; and when Sifirnes proposed to lead them thither, the Thebans expressed some reluctance. But that wise and virtuous Scythian, viewing such consecrated retreats in a manner different from the opinion of the Greeks, proved to them, that the Gods, instead of being offended at their proceedings, would rather on the contrary bless them with their divine assistance, and that it was the most auspicious of all omens to issue, for the preventing the perpetration of the most

Lacedemonians, warned to beware of *the Leuctric-vengeance*, thought to appease the manes of the injured family, by consecrating a grove in honor of them ; but the Lacedemonian defeat at Leuctra, which was looked upon as the true expiation of the inhuman crime committed there, made the Theban captains give the Oracle a different construction.

horrid

horrid iniquity, from out a place devoted to the Deity.

Being relieved from their fears of sacrilege, the four hundred youths renewed their oath, to follow Sifinnes and redeem Philotimus. Pelopidas, to whom the virtuous Scythian had imparted his design, confirmed it by his applause, and even assured him that he wou'd second it by engaging Cleombrotus in continual skirmishes and diverting his precaution by sudden alarms. They marched out in the gloom and silence of the night, and after a wide and sinuous route arrived in the sacred groves, where they sat them down in anxious expectation of the important hour. An whole day passed over e'er the Lacedemonian escort came in view, and Sifinnes began to fear for the life of his friend, when about the
noon

noon of the succeeding day, a Theban stationed on an eminence that overlooked the wood, gave notice that the enemy approached, and also that he thought that in the midst of them he had discerned some persons clad in white (*k*). Heavens ! what do I hear, exclaimed Sinnes ; is this the preparation for a sacrifice ?

(*k*) There are some few instances of human Sacrifices among the Greeks ; this dire insatiation, the offspring of ignorance and barbarism prevails only whilst they subsist, and yields to the power of reason. But as superstition is found in every age and country, policy grasping at every thing to attain its ends, has employed that also, as a most powerful engine. Themistocles observing the Grecians before the battle of Salamis, balancing between fear and resolution, framed an oracle, and offered up in Sacrifice to Bacchus Omestes, three young Persian Princes, of the family of Xerxes, who had been taken in battle. This act
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a sacrifice ? it shall not be accomplished ; I swear it shall not, by our holy friendship, and by this sword the deity revered by the Scythians. Come then, my friends ; come, let us see what piety and valor can atchieve, and let us rush on these barbarians shielded by the friendly Jove, who hath guided us hither.

The Lacedemonian escort twice out numbered the Theban battalion ; but this consideration rather

of cruelty must necessarily have excited two different sentiments, whence victory must have resulted : the common soldiery were assured of the God's protection ; and the more thinking citizens saw, that after so bold a violation of the law of nations, they must conquer, or suffer the most dreadful reprisals from the conqueror ; this was the intention of Themistocles.

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filled them with unwonted might and undaunted resolution. Sifinnes waited 'till the captives appeared in sight, from apprehension lest if they assailed them sooner, the enemy should by a single stroke give them cause for lasting sorrow. But when Philotimus appeared, crowned with flowers and bound with fillets, Sifinnes and his Thebans abruptly falling forth, and with dismaying shouts falling on the Spartan soldiers, burst through the press to where he stood, and in an instant released him from inglorious restraint. Philotimus and his captived associates armed without delay, by the wise foresight of Sifinnes, joined themselves to their deliverers; in vain did the Lacedemonians attempt to resume their courage, they are forced to yield before the Thebans, whose justly-provoked wrath subsided not until the

the last Spartan poured forth his life upon the field.

After having raised at the entrance of the sacred grove, a trophy which they dedicated to the friendly Jove, and to the guardian Gods of Beotia, the victorious Thebans hastened to regain the camp of Pelopidas, where Philotimus was received with transports of joy, excessive as their fears of losing him were great. The Theban general bestowed on this invincible escort, all the distinctions which it merited, and that it might never be divided, he named it the *Sacred Batallion*, to commemorate the place where it had fought ; and to render the due homage to that exalted virtue, which had formed and excited it to action, he ordered that no one from that time for ever, should be en-

rolled therein, who did not present himself together with a Friend (/).

At this last atchievement of the Thebans, Cleombrotus was seized amazement. He retreated and pitched his camp before Leuctra. Pelopidas pursued him thither. This sacred spot, said he to his soldiers, is already rendered famous by the crimes of Sparta, and by our victory. The Gods have

(/) The *Sacred Batallion* was never conquered till the battle of Cheronea, where, crushed beneath the weight of the Macedonian Phalanx, it expired together with the liberty of Greece. After the battle, Philip, seeing the four hundred men of whom it consisted, all pierced in the breast with deep wounds of javelins, and fallen in their ranks, without having lost an inch of the plain on which they fought, was seized with the highest admiration of that gallant band.

them

drawn them hither to be avenged for the iniquities of their ancestors (*m*), and to complete the subversion of that empire, which haughty Lacedemon hath usurped over the States of Greece. An exulting shout the harbinger of victory, was the reply of the Thebans. Cleombrotus could not decline the battle ; his dispositions for attack evinced him a wise commander, Pelopidas rivaled him in courage and sagacity, and the day at length arrived that was to restore all Greece to peace and liberty, or make them slaves for ever.

The extraordinary bravery which Philotimus's band had shewn, determined Pelopidas to assign them no fixed station among the legions,

(*m*) See Note (*i*), page 105.

but

but to place them in such a manner as to see around on every side, and reinforce the quarter where the combat raged with most obstinacy, and the victory was most uncertain. The Theban general wisely saw that on the presence of this redoubtable battalion, the fate of conquest depended.

The Spartans, impatient to obliterate their late disgrace, and animated by the rememb'rance of their pristine victories, fought with all that fierce, unguar'd courage which characterised them : the Thebans, glorying in their recent successes, sustained their onset with unshaken fortitude ; yet would superior numbers have overpowered them, if Philotimus, whose piercing eye at once perceived both the danger and the means of opposing it, had not advanced with vigor where Cleombrotus

brotus seemed already to be conqueror. The resolute and sudden attack of the Sacred Batallion checked the fury of his Phalanx, and Philotimus pressed forward to the king himself. In the Theban, a personal enmity was united with a strenuous desire to serve his country ; whilst in the Spartan, indignant anger to find himself opposed by a man who wore his chains but a few days before, redoubled his ardor to punish him : this important combat wellnigh suspended the rage of both armies ; Philotimus, wounded at the first by his antagonist, was become thereby rather the more formidable ; at length he pierced him to the heart ; a panic terror then seized the Spartan troops and they fled in general disorder. The victor Thebans pursued them even to the frontiers of Beotia, and Sparta sued for peace.

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The while, Dioxippus, whose threats to Palmis of obtaining her by the suffrage of the Tegyrians, were not expressed in vain, was impatient to demand her of them. Jealous of his rival's glory, which he was unable to dissemble, he apprehended with good reason, that if Philotimus should arrive at Tegyra, before he had obtained Palmis, his project would encounter insurmountable obstructions. There was an antient Law which gave permission to the most illustrious of the citizens, or to him who had rendered the most signal service to his country, to chuse at his discretion, a wife among the Tegyrian women. Palmis belonged not to them ; and therefore it appeared that she could no be governed by a law, which only regarded the daughters of citizens ; but Dioxippus, representing to the rulers of
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the people, that Mithres, after dwelling for so long a time under the protection of their city, could not be considered as a stranger, easily brought them over to consent to demand Palmis for him. Mithres made answer, that his daughter had been promised to Philotimus, and that that youthful hero had for Beotia in general, performed actions far surpassing that which Dioxippus had done for Tegyra only ; that consequently, even supposing he were subject to such a law, the election would rather fall on Philotimus than Dioxippus ; and lastly, that it was not in his power to compel his daughter to violate vows so sacred as those by which she was betrothed to Philotimus. This reply which provoked the rage of Dioxippus, gave umbrage the Tegyrean rulers. Valuing only the particular service which

Dioxippus

Dioxippus had rendered their town, and blind to the advantages procured them by the victories of his rival (without which notwithstanding Tegyra as well as the rest of Beotia had been enslaved) they resolved to constrain Palmis to give her hand to him, and declared their purpose to Misithres.

To preserve themselves from this illegal violence, the only expedient that now remaned, was an immediate and silent flight. Misithres and Palmis addressed themselves thereto with tears ; the former for having been despoiled of that tranquillity in which he hoped to pass the residue of his days ; the latter, on the fatality which so long detained Philotimus at distance from her. Alas ! capricious fortune was persecuting him also with troubles of another nature : Cephisodorus

phifodorus had received a mortal wound, at the battle of Leuctra, and Philotimus was engaged by every filial care to render the last sad duties to the manes of his father.

The project of Misithres could not be conducted with such privacy as to escape the eye of Dioxippus. The completion thereof must be prevented, or he must resign all hope for ever. Nor Thebes, nor any other city of Beotia would have indulged him the servile attention paid him by the Tegyreans. Therefore, by scattering gold with unspareing hand, he prevailed with the chief Priestesses of Juno Lucina, to demand that Palmis should be committed to her care to the moment of her marriage.

What a sight to be presented to the view of Philotimus ! He arrived
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at Tegyra together with Sifinnes, just at the instant when Palmis was forced from her father's dwelling, and conducted to the temple of the Goddess. In vain did Misithres remind them of the sacred rights of hospitality, in vain did he imprecate the vengeance of the Gods upon the monsters, who in contempt of the most inviolable laws of nature, presumed to tear a daughter from the arms of her father : his prayers and expostulations were not heeded ; nay, the Tegyreans even thought themselves offended by his complaints. A stranger like Misithres, without alliance or support in Greece, should in their opinion, esteem himself supremely honored in giving citizens to Tegyra. The unfortunate old man, drowned in tears, was sitting on the threshold of the gate of the temple, and in that posture was
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the first object that struck the eye of Philotimus. Alas, my father! what mean these tears? is Palmis? -----my beloved Palmis?-----My son, the public voice hath robbed thee of her. Tegyra destines her for Dioxippus, and even now she hath been shut up in this temple, to be confined therein, until the day appointed to unite her with thy rival. They have forced her from her father, only because he would preserve her for thee alone. Hath Dioxippus! (Philotimus exclaimed,) that Dioxippus whom my father and Pelopidas pronounced unworthy to share in that glorious enterprise, which made Beotia free; hath he presumed to dispute with me the hand of Palmis? He never shall obtain her, replied Sifinnes, whose soul in that instant felt a secret joy at having found a rival whom he might detest: he never

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shall

shall obtain her, my dear Philotimus, rely upon the greatness of my friendship. What, Palmis the prey of Dioxippus ! No, wise Misithres, thy last moments shall never be afflicted with the horrid apprehension of beholding her in the arms of a man devoid of principles, of morals and of country.

These assurances of Sisinnus, that ardor with which he espoused the interests of Palmis and Misithres calmed the sorrows of this afflicted parent. But Philotimus transported with wrath revolved in his mind the most absurd and useless resolutions. Now would he storm the temple, rescue his spouse from thence, and escape with her to some country far remote from Greece. Now he meditated to destroy Dioxippus and Tegyra. The most extreme and desperate measures

tures were the only means that presented themselves to his agitated soul. Sad effects of vehement affection, which holding up to our view the end alone to which we aspire, for ever hides from our discovery the direct path whereby to arrive thereat.

Misithres and Philotimus involved in equal perplexity, know not in what expedient to rest. But Sifinnes, more used to feed on doleful thoughts ever since the commencement of the hopeless love with which Palmis had inspired him, and consequently less susceptible of the sudden appulses of inordinate affliction, immediately foresaw what should be done, as well to overthrow the devices of Dioxippus, as to restore Palmis to her father and her husband. They repaired to the house of Misithres, where, after

deliberation, they judged it advisable, that, e'er it was devulged that Philotimus had returned to Tegyra, Misithres should go to see his daughter, from conversing with whom no one could debar him, and that he should instruct her, whenever she was urged by solicitations to reward with the offer of her hand the protector of her country, to reply, that she acknowledged no country but Beotia in general, and therefore should be suffered to chuse from the number of those who had contributed most to set her country free: that if she was pressed to name Dioxippus, she should appeal to the decision of the Delphian Oracle, promising obedience to his mandate, if the God deigned to judge between Philotimus and his rival; but that moreover if the deity should leave her free
and

and utter no decision, no one besides herself could challenge any right to give her hand away. The prophetess of Delphos, continued Sifinnes, bears an implacable enmity to the priestess of Tegyra; and as the interpreters of your Gods never make them speak but in conformity to their particular passions, it is more than probable, that when the prophetess shall learn that Dioxippus is befriended by her enemy, she will pronounce an Oracle in thy favor. Thou art surprized, my dear Philotimus, to hear these free and bold expressions; but I am a Scythian; my country knows no God but the great Mithrath; and of all those whom Greece adores, I have learned to reverence none but the friendly Jove, because it is his name which we invoke in solemn leagues of friendship.

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But moreover, the people not presuming to refuse the requisition of Palmis, we shall gain time thereby, and may take more efficacious measures, should the oracle prove contrary, of which result I entertene no apprehensions.

Misithres, highly commending the council of Sifinnes, proceeded toward the temple; when Philotimus, who scarcely gave attention to their conversation, at length perceiving himself alone with his friend: and is it thou, said he, is it thou Sifinnes who dost detene me here? Are there any means more eligible than to go forthwith and destroy the life of the recreant Dixippus? He shall perish by my sword, and though I should meet my fate from his hand, yet have I fixed my determination.-----What dost thou mean to do, my dear Philotimus?

lotimus ; say, will Palmis be rescued the more surely thereby ? Bethink thee, that as the Tegyreans have adjudged her to thy rival, it is not him, but themselves that they will deem offended. And in that case, wouldst thou excite Beotia to take up arms against herself ? Thebes in arms against Tegyra ! O heaven ! banish such destructive resolutions from the soul of my friend ! Trust me, Philotimus, the Expedient I have proposed is the only one admissible ; and all that I can farther recommend, is to write thereon to Pelopidas who loveth thee ; perhaps his answer, or his presence will dispel the illusion, which, because Dioxippus hath been so fortunate as to succour Theopompus, and to pursue the track disclosed to his view by that illustrious leader, hath made the
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stupid Tegyreans believe, that he was able to replace him.

Misithres having demanded a sight of Palmis, a privilege which none presumed to refuse him, was introduced to her presence. He found her bathed in tears, but the vivid tint of her complexion was heightened in consequence of a spirited conversation, which she had had with the chief Priestess, who, seduced by the bribes of Dioxippus, had dared to employ menaces to enforce her consent to be united with him. But seeing the soul of Palmis superior to fear, and having vainly tried every persuasion that the deepest artifice could suggest, she concluded with attesting the express injunction of the Gods. Can the Gods, replied Palmis, be friends to perjury? Cease to dishonor them
by

by supposing them combined with thee in infamy and violence. At these words, the Priestess departed, anger flashing from her eyes, and choler burning at her heart. By intimating the return of Philotimus Misithres reinstated Palmis in all her wonted fortitude: he acquainted her with the expedient suggested by Sisinnus, and her heart adopted it without reserve. The following day, when the Tegyrian deputed came to renew their solicitations, she declared that she would not dispose of her hand, without having previously consulted the Gods, and Dioxippus was obliged to give assent thereto. Four of the leading inhabitants of Tegyra departed for Delphos, in company with Misithres. Sisinnus, who had set out before them, and out-ran their expedition thither, had taken a favoring opportunity to recount how
Palmis

Palmis was confined, and what destructive consequences might thence ensue to all Beotia. He had drawn the characters of Philotimus and Dioxippus : and chiefly dwelt on the contenance shewn the latter by the priestess of Juno ; so that by the time the Tegyrean envoys arrived, every circumstance of the whole transaction was fully known to all the priests of Delphos, and Sisinnes, without appearing to be interested therein, had the addresse to irritate every breast against that lawless violence, which had forced Palmis from her father.

At length the day appointed to implore the answer of the Gods arrived, and the Pythian Maid, from the sacred tripod, just at the entrance of that prophetic Cave, whose exhalations filled the brain with convulsive vapors, pronounced these words,

words, attended with the wildest gestures :

*From a bold sacrilegious hand,
The worst of ills, fair Palmis, fear :
Tho' thousand dangers round thee
stand,
Thy sacred promise still revere ;
A daring sacrilegious hand,
To give thee lasting peace the Gods
command.*

This Oracle filled the Tegyreans with dismay, altho' it equally conveyed fears of threatened calamities and hopes of consolation ; but to them it seemed to contain a positive injunction to restore Palmis to her father. In consequence, the moment they returned to Tegyra, Palmis was reconducted to the house of Misithres, 'spight of the most strenuous opposition which Dioxippus still employed to to prevent it.

Philotimus,

Philotimus, in extacy of delight, alternately embraced Sifinnes and the father of his beloved Palmis. And art thou, then, once more restored to me, he would have said, when the accents died away upon his lips. Palmis, overcome with joy at this sudden success, could only look on Philotimus with eyes that shot forth rays of the tenderest love. Misithres unwilling to waste such precious moments in delay, appointed the next day but one for the celebration of their nuptials. The arrival of Pelopidas, who came to vindicate the claims of a youthful hero whom he esteemed, overawed the rage of Dioxippus, who smothering the anguish of his mind, seemed to behold the preparations for the ceremony without expressing any intention to obstruct it. But the chief Priestess, who in the words of the oracle discerned
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the traces of an enemy's hand, encouraged him to accomplish it. Thou art the favorite of the Gods, brave Dioxippus, said she ; they mention sacrilege, it must be perpetrated. 'Tis at their very altars that thou must seek justice. Palmis, e'er she assumes the sacred veile, must enter the sanctuary where men are not admitted, in order to renew her vows prostrate at the feet of the Goddess. There runs a secret subterranean passage beneath the temple and the city, from under the walls of which it emerges on the outside by a narrow postern. By that way I can introduce thee, attended by two slaves of whom thou mayest make choice ; and when Palmis shall appear, thou shalt bear her away by force, and escape to Megara, whence thou mayest speedily sail for Ionia, and mock the vigilance of

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thy

thy rival. Thus, protected even by the Gods themselves, thou shalt do that lucky sacrilege which they have mentioned. Dioxippus received this proposal with transport, and without reflecting that he was going to banish himself from Greece for ever, his thoughts were solely bent on hasty preparation to complete his bold attempt.

Palmis, who in imagination anticipated the blessings which she hoped to enjoy from her union with Philotimus, gave a loose to an ingenuous and refined delight. Philotimus, assured that no caprice of fortune could delay his happiness, and now wellnigh arrived at his utmost wish, meditated on nought but Palmis. Nevertheless the pensive melancholy in which he saw Sifinnes plunged awakened all his apprehension. Say, my dearest friend,
he

he thus addressed him, say whence has this cloud of grief arisen on thy brow, to obscure the brightness of my joy? Why do I behold thee, who shouldest rather be pleased with my felicity, thee who ha'st hastened the moment of its completion, and when thou hast finished thy friendly labors, thus dejected, wrapt in gloomy thought, and pining in anguish which thy friendship will not permit thee to communicate with me? What sorrow hangs upon thy soul? From what source does it arise? I will inform thee, my Philotimus; but exclusive of some secret reasons which may afflict my heart, do'st thou imagine that I can view without inquietude this seeming tranquillity of Dioxippus? Thou, perhaps, supposest that the presence of Pelopidas, and the indications of favor which he sees conferred by him on thee, have suppressed

ed his malicious thoughts. But be not deceived. I yesterday beheld him looking toward the house of Misithres with furious aspect. Yet I do not think that he would dare, before Pelopidas and his company of Thebans, to commence any base attempt; but he may concert some treacherous stratagem against thee or Palmis, and only defers to execute it. I will however watch his motions, and should he venture to interrupt the peace of either, I will find means to punish his presumption. Go to the temple, thy friends await thee there. Come, replied Philotimus, and be there a witness of my happiness. No, returned Sisinnes, excuse me, I entreat thee from accompanying thee thither. -----What! does my beloved friend refuse me?-----Thou shalt hereafter be acquainted with my reasons. Farewel, Philotimus, may you be
supremely

supremely happy ; it is all that I desire : at these words he flung away from his embrace and ran to bear with him his dispersing griefs without Tegyra, and more freely vent them in the dark recesses of the sacred grove which lay contiguous to the city wall ; there, finding himself remote from every observing eye : I am then, he exclaimed, forever doomed to love her, and her presence hath rekindled a flame which reason had nearly extinguished. I still adore her, and to day, on this very day, she becomes the wife of my friend. Yet one hour and Palmis shall be to me the most sacred of all objects. Every thing, even to the very remembrance of my passion, if I could be capable to cherish and indulge it, shall to me appear a most abhorred crime. But vice is foreign from my heart. I may be wretched, but never a perfidious villain. I

will conquer my ungenerous Passion, I will no more look on Palmis but as a friend, as a tender sister. Yet, O my deplorable condition! Can I say to my self, It shall be so? whilst I feel the fire of love with additional force continually destroying my soul. What torments then are in store for my heart? Could I endure the killing and withal the melting sight of their mutual felicity? Their friendship alas! would make me, however unwilling, the confident in their descriptions of ineffable happiness! their fond and unsuspecting confidence would every moment pierce my heart. Could I defend myself from the dominion of unreasonable jealousy? Could I fortify my soul against envy, and preserve my virtue? No, I feel myself inadequate to so arduous a proof. I would at length heat thee, Philotimus, I would heat thee!

----Oh!

----- Oh! Heaven! ----- let me fly,
 let me rather fly, let me snatch myself
 from the danger of rendering myself
 unworthy my own esteem. What have I
 said? shall I forsake my friend, shall I
 desert him without acquainting him with the
 motives of my flight? and, in how critical
 a season? ----- When perhaps he may
 require the assistance of my arm to with-
 stand the violence of his rival? What
 cowardice! I will think of it no more.
 Let me serve him to the utmost of my
 power, and then ----- let me perish,
 if so my destiny ordains it, to preserve
 my virtue. Such were the melancholy
 reflexions to which Sifinnes abandoned
 himself whilst, with eyes cautiously view-
 ing all around him, he passed along
 through the winding avenues of the soli-
 tude into which he had deeply wandered.
 Mean time Palmis was conducted in
 procession to the temple,

ple, by her father and Pelopidas, who would on this occasion shew Philotimus a public testimony of the respect with which he honored him. The eyes of that lovely virgin sparkled thro' the pure and tranquil joy which successful love inspires and virtue sanctifies. An exalted soul and consciousness of his approaching happiness shone also in the countenance of Philotimus ; they separately arrived at the temple, amid the acclamations of the youthful Thebans, who came thither under the command of Pelopidas, and a part of whom accompanied Philotimus. The dome of the temple echoed to the music of hymns, and the air was filled with the odor of the most exquisite perfumes of Arabia. Philotimus and Palmis, with hands united over the sacred altar, mutually uttered vows of eternal love, and nothing was wanting to
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complete the ceremony but to receive from the hands of the priestesses the sacred nuptial vele. Palmis was led into the inner sanctuary, there to ratify before the Goddess the promises which she had just made to Philotimus ; but whilst the chief priestesses was perfuming the misterious vele, with the purest incense, an indistinct confused cry was heard, in the subterranean chambers of the temple. The cry assails the ears of Philotimus ; his fears for Palmis are awakened ; he attempts to burst through the balustrade, which withheld him from his wife ; this the priestesses oppose, as a prophanation ; when the noise on a sudden arose to a louder tone, and seemed to consist of menacing exclamations ; then Philotimus forgetting every veneration for the place, was rushing to the assistance of his Palmis, whe a distant door yielding

yielding to a violent shock, flew open, and discovered her to his view, pale, trembling, her tresses disheveled, and Sifinnes, with enraged countenance and eyes flashing with wrath, with one hand leading Palmis, and holding in the other, his sword distained with blood : Dioxippus, my friend, is no more, said the virtuous Scythian, and thy wife is again restored to thee. This sword has put a period to his life and villainous purposes, just in the moment when, (without doubt in concert with the infamous attendants of this temple) he would have carried off thy Palmis ; I saw him descend into a subterranean passage outside the walls of Tegyra, and was convinced that some base design discovered it to him, and had conducted him thither. I pursued him at a distance to this very sanctuary, and have punished the monster,

ster in the presence of your Gods. Astonishment and horror chilled the hearts of all the spectators. Philotimus had only the power to lock Palmis in his embraces ; when, immediately, the priestess encouraged by the death of Dioxippus, who might have betrayed her secret machinations, and feigning a divine enthusiasm, exclaimed, One sacrilegious intruder is chastised, but the Gods demand attonement by the blood of the other ; and I devote the life of this profane stranger a sacrifice to the infernal Deities. This dreadful denunciation, which was seconded by the applauses of the Tegyrean populace, made all the Thebans quake with abhorrence. Pelopidas was preparing to interpose his authority, and take Sifinnes under his protection, when waving with his hand in signal to be heard : If, said he to the chief priestess,

priestess, I had nought beside thy
 menaces and idle imprecations to
 fear, I should with ease secure my-
 self from thy unavailing anger and
 despire at having failed to ac-
 complish thy iniquitous intent.
 The Gods were never cruel, and
 to suppose that they can be appeas-
 ed by shedding human blood, is
 impious. But I have here a duty
 of a different nature to fulfil.
 Listen then, my Philotimus, listen
 to a secret which in this dreadful
 moment I am going to revele to
 thee. I loved Palmis, I still adore
 her, and all my conduct has not
 been influenced by pure friendship
 alone ; I rather sought her happi-
 ness than the gratification of my
 friend ; if I have served thy love,
 'twas only because I saw that Pal-
 mis could not enjoy happiness with-
 out thee. This is my transgression.
 It is great and insupportable to a
 Scythian,

Scythian, whose heart should be filled and whose actions should be directed by nought but friendship. It is just that I should avenge it on myself. At these words, he plunged his sword into his breast. Palmis, Misithres and Pelopidas rent the air with their cries. In vain did they strive to arrest his arm; their endeavors were too late. The blood which gushed in a moment from the deep wound, empurpled the garments of Philotimus, who had cast himself upon his dying friend. Adieu, my dear Philotimus, said Sisinnus, with a feeble voice, let me live in thy remembrance, and may my days be added to the number of thine. Adieu, O lovely Palmis. Together with that name his soul departed from his lips.

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The excessive despire in which Philotimus was lost, caused all to apprehend some fatal catastrophe. They hastened to remove the bleeding object from his sight. In process of time, the tenderness of Palamis, and the assiduity of Misithres who both bore an equal part in his affliction, softened it into a fond remembrance of his generous friend. Pelopidas gave orders that the funeral of Sisinnes should be conducted with the utmost pomp. The four hundred Thebans, who composed the *Sacred Battalion*, with eyes drowned in tears, set fire to the pile erected to consume the precious remains of the friend of their leader ; his ashes were inclosed in a golden urn, till those of Philotimus should one day be mixed with them, and when the stroke of fate had re-united him with Sisinnes,

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the Thebans instituted a solemn festival, to be celebrated annually, in the grove of the Leuctrides, in honor of the Friendly Jove, and these two virtuous friends.

F I N I S.

